

# APPROVED

## MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CA 91101

9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025

*This meeting will be conducted by the Board of Retirement both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953 (f).*

#### TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Les Robbins, Chair

Shawn R. Kehoe, Secretary (Alternate Seventh Member)

Elizabeth Ginsberg

Jason E. Green

Nancy Durazo

Bobbie Fesler

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

Aleen Langton

Wayne Moore

#### TRUSTEES ABSENT:

David Ryu

Ronald Okum, Vice Chair

## STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Luis A. Lugo, Acting Chief Executive Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

Jude Perez, Deputy Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Louis Gittens, Division Manager, Benefits

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Milliman

Craig Glyde, Consulting Actuary

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robbins at 9:05 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Langton led the Trustees and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE  
UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953 (f)

- A. Just Cause
- B. Action on Emergency Circumstance Requests
- C. Statement of Persons Present at AB 2449 Teleconference Locations

There was nothing to report. No trustees participated under Section 54953(f).

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 3, 2025

Trustee Green made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 3, 2025. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore

Abstain: Robbins

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

- A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Larisa Fradkin, Lisa DiGiovanna, Vache Mahseredjian, Linda El-Farra. The Web Watcher winner was Liliana Ronquillo and the Rideshare winner was Tatiana Bayer.

- B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Stefanie Zumbo.

- C. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Lugo provided a brief presentation on the Chief Executive Officer's Report and answered questions from the Board.

## VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement

## Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Harris, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
733E	CALANDRINO, SYLVIA B.
734E	GUERRERO, GERARDO
735E	KUSIAK, SEAN T.
736E	BROWN, SHEILA P.
737E	HERNANDEZ, DELICIA
738E	BERTOLA, ROGER A.
739E	FONTES, VINCENT R.
740E	SUAREZ, VERONICA
741E	LIEBE, JOCHEN
742E	PEREA, MICHAEL G.
743E*	NEBEL, JOEL T.
744E*	MALICEK, AUDREY L.
745E	MOHRHOFF, DOUGLAS K.
746E	GARCIA, BRENDA
747E	JACKSON, BRENETHA T.
748E	CHAB, CHHEANG
749E	MARBACH, MARK J.
750E	STONE, MARK H.
751E*	ZUMWALT, BOYD R., III
752E	LEAKE, SEAN R.
753E**	KELLEY-EKLUND, JOSHUA R. (DEC'D)
754E**	LEMUS, VICTOR M. (DEC'D)

\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

\*\*Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Robbins

Safety Fire, Lifeguards  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green seconded by Trustee Langton, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1000C*	CHAVARRIE, MICHAEL D.
1001C	BERNAU, STEVEN J.
1002C*	SMOLIN, JOHN M.
1003C	PITTS, DOUGLAS A.
1004C*	WILSON, JEFFREY B.
1005C	ROWE, MICHAEL E.
1998B	GARCIA, RICK J.
1999B	SINGLETON, KENNETH B.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Robbins

\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

## VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

### General Members

#### Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Langton, seconded by Trustee Moore, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2000D*	HALLIE, DAWN D.
2001D**	SAWYER, LATONYA L.
2002D*	SARGSYAN, HRACH
2003D	CAMARENA, ANTONIO
2004D***	VALENCIA, MARIA E.
2005D*	ANGUIANO, ENRIQUE
2991C	NGUYEN, HAI H.
2992C****	MADADIAN DAVIDIAN, NOYEMIK
2993C	FINKS, DIANA C.
2994C*	LUGO, BARBARA A.
2995C	DAIDONE, DANIELLE G.
2996C	REICH, MICHAEL J.
2997C*	ORTIZ, VICTORIA A.
2998C*	SILVERMAN, MICHAEL B.
2999C	APODACA, DAVID L.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Robbins

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

\*\*\*Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

\*\*\*\*Granted SCD – Retro Employer Cannot Accommodate

## VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

### General Members

#### Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Langton, seconded by Trustee Moore, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a nonservice-connected disability retirement for the following named employee who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of her usual duties.

APPLICATION NO.

4518\*

NAME

DURAN, MARK N.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Robbins

## VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Moore seconded, to approve consent items A-D. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Robbins

### A. **Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals**

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as of September 23, 2025, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated September 23, 2025)

### B. **Dismiss with Prejudice the Appeal of Tanicia R. Trotter**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board dismiss with prejudice Tanicia R. Trotter's appeal for a service-connected disability retirement. (Memo dated September 5, 2025)

\*Granted NSCD – Retroactive

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

C. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request - Winet Patrick Creighton & Hanes**

Recommendation as submitted by Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel, Legal Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Winet Patrick Creighton & Hanes.

(Memo dated September 12, 2025 – Attachment is Non-Public and Exempt from Disclosure as Private Information and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.700, 54957.56(a))

D. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request – Jeffrey A. Hirsch, M.D.**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Jeffrey A. Hirsch, M.D.

(Memo dated September 8, 2025 – Attachment is Non-Public and Exempt from Disclosure as Private Information and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.700, 54957.56(a))

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items pulled for discussion.

X. NON – CONSENT ITEMS

A. **2026 STAR COLA Program Award**

Recommendation as submitted by Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer:

(1) That the Board of Retirement decide whether or not to award a STAR COLA for Program Year 2026, and

(2) If a benefit is approved, determine whether the STAR COLA benefits will be on an ad-hoc basis at a cost of \$832,000 for a one-year addition to retirement allowances, as determined by LACERA's consulting actuary, Milliman, to restore eligible retirees to an 80% benefit level effective for calendar year 2026, or



X. NON – CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

(3) If a benefit is approved, determine whether the STAR COLA benefits will be on a permanent basis at a cost of \$8,824,000 for a lifetime addition to retirement allowances, as determined by LACERA's consulting actuary, Milliman, to restore eligible retirees to an 80% benefit level effective January 1, 2026.

Craig Glyde, Consulting Actuary, Milliman  
(Presentation) (Memo dated September 22, 2025)

Mr. Granger and Mr. Glyde of Milliman provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Green seconded, to approve the STAR COLA on a permanent basis effective January 1, 2026. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Robbins

B. **Ratification of Outgoing Reciprocal Disability Retirement**

Recommendation as submitted by Louis Gittens, Benefits Manager. That the Board approve the outgoing reciprocal disability retirement for the following named deferred members who were found to be disabled by the current reciprocal agency for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof. (Memo dated September 16, 2025)

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Robbins

XI. REPORTS

A. **Report of Revised Pay Items**

Jean J. Kim, Senior Staff Counsel  
(For Information Only) (Memo dated September 17, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

XI. REPORTS (Continued)

B. **Contracting Activity Report – August 2025**

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager

Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II

(For Information Only) (Memo dated September 15, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

C. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – August 2025**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated September 19, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

D. **Monthly Status Report on Legislation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated September 22, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

E. **September 2025 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated September 22, 2025)

(Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.705, 54957.5(a))

This item was received and filed.

XII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

There were no items to report.

XIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There was nothing to report.

XIV. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(For Information Purposes Only)

There was nothing to report.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5403B – SANDOVAL, MARTHA M.\*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Harris seconded, to grant a service-connected disability with the option of an earlier effective date pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720 and 31724. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Robbins

Absent: Moore

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5410B – ALMANZA, CARRIE A.\*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Harris seconded, to grant a service-connected disability pursuant to Government Code section 31720. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Kehoe, Langton, Robbins

Absent: Moore

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5460B – MOORE, MICHAEL L.

Trustee Langton recused herself from discussion and voting on this item due to a conflict of interest.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected disability without prejudice pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Moore, Robbins

\*Applicant and/or Applicant's Attorney Present

## XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
(Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (b) of California Government Code Section 54957)

Title: Chief Counsel

There was nothing to report.

## XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

*Signature of File*

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SHAWN R. KEHOE, SECRETARY

*Signature on File*

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LES ROBBINS, CHAIR